

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1 through 31 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 9, and 17 have been amended. Support for the amendment may be found throughout the specification and in particular, page 9, [0024]. No new matter has been added.

Claim Rejections- 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Patent Office rejected Claims 1 through 31 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Atech Flash and their product “PRO II USB MULTI-SLOT CARD READER/WRITER” (hereinafter referred to as PRO II). Applicants respectfully traverse.

The present invention relates to a USB flash bay which may be integrated with an information handling system assembly. The USB flash bay is suitable for being inserted in an external drive bay of an information handling system assembly. The USB flash bay includes at least one USB port, at least one flash card slot, at least one USB hub, and at least one flash card reader controller. The at least one flash card reader controller is capable of interfacing with a USB hub and enumerates as a standard USB mass storage device. In addition, the USB flash bay includes a latching mechanism for facilitating efficient integration of the bay with the information handling system assembly.

Anticipation requires the disclosure in a single prior art reference of each element of the claim under consideration. *W.L. Gore & Assocs. v. Garlock*, 721 F.2d 1540, 220 USPQ 303 (Fed. Cir. 1983), *cert. denied*, 469 U.S. 851 (1984). If anticipation is based upon the inherent teaching of a prior art reference, the Examiner must provide a rationale or evidence tending to show inherency. As stated in *In re Robertson*, “to establish inherency the extrinsic evidence must make clear that the missing descriptive matter is necessarily present in the thing described in the reference, and that it would be recognized by persons of ordinary skill.” (emphasis added) *In re Robertson*, 169 F.3d 743, 745, 49 USPQ2d 1949, 1950-51 (Fed. Cir. 1999). Additionally, “inherency, however, may not be established by probabilities or possibilities.” *Id.* Moreover, “the

mere fact that a certain thing may result from a given set of circumstances is not sufficient.” *Id.*

The Patent Office, while rejecting Claims 1 through 31, has particularly reviewed Claim 1. Claim 1, along with Claims 9, 17, and 25, include elements that have not been taught, disclosed or suggested by PRO II. For example, PRO II fails to teach, disclose or suggest “the USB flash bay includes a latching mechanism for securing the USB flash bay” as recited in Claim 1. PRO II does not disclose a USB flash bay including a latching mechanism for securing the USB flash bay. Instead, as indicated in the PRO II reference, “PRO II includes three screw holes on each side for position adjustment.” Pro II, Using PRO II Internally Section. First, such is not a latching mechanism which is employed in the present invention. Second, the use of a latching mechanism is advantageous over a plurality of screws for the latching mechanism is more efficient (e.g., takes a user a smaller amount of time to integrate the bay with a system), accurate (e.g., a user doesn’t have to keep adjusting the screws until a desired position is achieved) and possibly reduces the probability of user-induced damage by over tightening screws and the like.

Accordingly, the rejection of Claim 1 should be withdrawn, and Claim 1 is allowed for PRO II fails to explicitly or implicitly teach, disclose, or suggest a “USB flash bay includes a latching mechanism for securing the USB flash bay.” Claims 9, 17, and 25 are believed to be allowable for similar reasoning. Claims 2-8, 10-16, 18-24, and 26-31 are believed to be allowable based on their dependence upon allowable base claims.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Patent Office rejected Claims 4, 12, 20, and 29 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) for being unpatentable over PRO II in view of Intel (Communication and Networking Riser Specification Revision 1.2; hereinafter referred to as Intel). Claims 5, 13, and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) for being unpatentable over PRO II in view of ordinary skill in the art. Claims 6, 14, and 22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) for being

unpatentable over PRO II in view of Li (United States Patent No. 6,681,991B1; hereinafter referred to as Li). Applicants respectfully traverse.

To establish *prima facie* obviousness of a claimed invention, all the claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art. *In re Ryoka*, 180 U.S.P.Q. 580 (C.C.P.A. 1974). *See also In re Wilson*, 165 U.S.P.Q. 494 (C.C.P.A. 1970). To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, three basic criteria must be met. First, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Third, the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations." (emphasis added) (MPEP § 2143). If an independent claim is nonobvious under 35 U.S.C. §103, then any claim depending therefrom is nonobvious. (emphasis added) *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988). In addition, "a prior art reference must be considered in its entirety, i.e., as a whole, including portions that would lead away from the claimed invention." M.P.E.P. 2131.02, citing *W.L. Gore & Associates, Inc. v. Garlock, Inc.*, 721 F.2d 1540, 220 USPQ 303 (Fed. Cir. 1983), cert. denied, 469 U.S. 851 (1984).

As indicated in the foregoing *Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102 section*, the primary reference, PRO II fails to disclose, teach or suggest all the elements recited in Claims 1, 9, and 17. Applicants respectfully submit that any of the ancillary references (Intel or Li) or ordinary skill in the art does not make up for the defects of PRO II.

Intel is cited for the disclosure of connecting the information handling system to the flash card reader through a connection other than a USB cable which the Patent office admitted that PRO II does not explicitly disclose. Further, Li is cited for the disclosure of a flash card reader including five flash card slots, which the Patent office admitted that PRO II does not explicitly disclose. However, neither Intel or Li cure the defect of PRO II in reference to Claims 1, 9, and 17 for they do not explicitly or implicitly teach or suggest

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"the USB flash bay includes a latching mechanism for securing the USB flash bay" as recited in Claim 1.

Thus, independent Claims 1, 9, 17, and 25 are nonobvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Claims 4-6, 12-14, 20-22, and 29 are believed to be allowable based on their dependence upon allowable base claims. Removal of all the pending rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103 is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

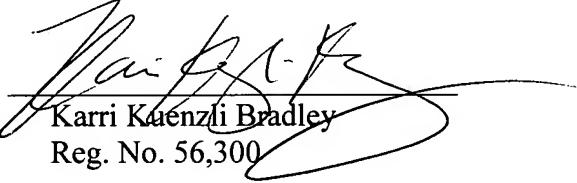
In light of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request a timely Notice of Allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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